



Helping Students Go And Make Disciples Of All Nations

E:34

PARENT GUIDE

2016



Dear Parent,

Thank you for caring enough about your child and the needs of the nations to consider allowing them to participate in this life-changing experience. Experiencing how The Lord is working around the world can forever alter our world-view. Short-term mission experiences allow Americans to catch a glimpse of how the rest of the world lives and teaches them to view that culture through the eyes of Christ; seeing not just physical poverty or a lack of infrastructure, but a deep need for a Savior.

We at Servant Life are very aware that sending your child into a different context can be difficult. There are perceived risks and unknown situations associated with international travel. ***We do not take this lightly.***

Your trust in us to provide a safe and organized experience is something we value greatly. Thank you for considering us. We desire for your child to live a life worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Paul commands us in Philippians 1:27. We desire for your child to live the Great Commission.

We have prepared this guide to help you navigate these important questions. As always, we are available and willing to answer any questions you have, via email, phone, twitter, or and other means of communication. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Blessings,

J. Roger Davis
Executive Director
Servant Life





Will my child serve alone or as part of a team?

Your child will be part of a Servant Life team, which can be made up of groups and/or individual participants. If your child is registering alone, he or she will join the team at a domestic or international airport, and stay and work with them for the remainder of the trip.

What kind of supervision will my child have?

Servant Life trips are led by our in-country ministry

partners. This partner serves as the host and leader for the team from the time they land in-country until they depart at the end of the trip.



How safe are these trips?

Servant Life makes every effort to keep your child safe during their entire experience with us. We visit every location before sending a group, and work with partners in the

country who are familiar with the area we will be staying in and working in. We research and plan the safest places for your student to eat, stay, work and serve.

Who will the teams work with?

All teams work with established Servant Life ministry partners. These are either

missionaries or ministry leaders who have a history of service in the country and programs that fit with the mission of Servant Life.

Who do I call in case of emergency while my child is traveling?

All Servant Life participants will be given a list with emergency contact information and numbers. This list includes the contact information for Servant Life, as well as our ministry partner serving on the field with your child. If an emergency arises where you need to reach your child, please contact Servant Life first, and we will work closely with you to reach your child.

of an emergency, Servant Life will contact parents immediately. So remember that no news is good news!

Servant Life if you are interested in learning more about using frequent flyer miles on a mission trip.



When should my child apply for a passport?

Your child should apply for a passport immediately after registering for a Servant Life mission trip. Passports can take up to 8 weeks to arrive. Costs related to obtaining a passport are the responsibility of the participant.

Is a visa required for my child's trip?

The only country that Servant Life is currently sending teams to needing visas is Kenya, Cuba, and East Asia. Visas can be obtained prior to leaving or when arriving in country. Servant Life will provide specifics to team leaders or individuals traveling on their own.

Will my child be able to call home and email while on the field?

Access to phone calls and email may be limited, and varies from location to location. As your child's trip approaches, more information will be given on phone and internet availability for that specific trip. In the event

We have a frequent flyer program. Can we use those miles to cover my child's ticket?

Possibly. We cannot guarantee which airline each team will use, as we are watching for competitive pricing and schedules. Please contact

Will my child receive any training?

Servant Life will send a preparation manual and training videos to your group leader. Hands-on training will take place with the ministry partner once the team arrives at their destination.



Why should my child go serve over seas when there are so many needs here in the United States?

The first and primary reason we believe in sending teams on international mission trips is that God has commanded His followers to make disciples of ALL nations (Matt 28:19). Knowing that we are commanded to play an active role in global disciple-making, we have found that missionaries and ministries around the world have needs that short-term mission teams can easily and uniquely fill, thus helping to advance the kingdom of God in those countries. We also hope that participating in an international mission trip will leave such an impression on your child's life that they will become supporters of mission work for the rest of their lives, whether through prayer, financial support, church leadership, or even life service.

What is not covered in my child's trip cost?

The only expenses not covered in your child's trip cost are meals in airports on travel days, any souvenirs that your child may wish to purchase while in country, and any expenses related to obtaining a passport and immunizations. Groups serving in Houston, Dallas, and Toronto will also need their own transportation.

Are there scholarships available for my child?

Servant Life does not offer scholarships, but we do provide guidance towards fundraising opportunities. We encourage participants to raise support through fundraising efforts such as church partnership and personal support letters, as needed.

Financial Guidelines

Servant Life is committed to providing a quality mission experience at the lowest possible price. Our goal is not to entertain, but rather to provide opportunities for you to live the Great Commission.

Deposits:

Summer International Trips: Deposits of \$250 per person and a copy of the front page of your passport are due November 1. If you register after November 1, a deposit of \$250 per person and a copy of the front page of your passport are due within 30 days of registration.

Summer Domestic Trips: Deposits of \$250 (\$75 for Houston) per person are due November 1. If you register after November 1, a deposit of \$250 (\$75 for Houston) per person is due within 30 days of registration.

Spring Break International Trips: Deposits of \$250 per person and a copy of the front page of your passport are due November 1. If you register after November 1, a deposit of \$250 per person and a copy of the front page of your passport are due within 30 days of registration.

Spring Break Domestic Trips: Deposits of \$250 (\$75 for Houston) per person are due November 1. If you register after November 1, a deposit of \$250 (\$75 for Houston) per person is due within 30 days of registration.

Deposits are non-refundable. If you are bringing a group and need to lower your number, a deposit may be transferred to your final balance through January 31. Deposits are non-transferable after January 31.

Summer Trip Payments:

The first payment, which is half of the base cost, is due March 1.

The balance of the trip cost is due in the Servant Life office no later than 35 days before departure. If your final balance is not received by 35 days out, a \$100 late fee may be applied.

Spring Break Trip Payments:

The first payment, which is half of the base cost, is due January 1.

The balance of the trip cost is due in the Servant Life office no later than 35 days before departure. If your final balance is not received by 35 days out, a \$100 late fee may be applied.

PLEASE NOTE: All checks and money orders must be made out to SERVANT LIFE. Please mail all payments and donations to PO Box 36307, Birmingham, AL 35236.



Airfare

Servant Life will secure all airline transportation through our travel agent to insure teams arrive together in the easiest way possible. Once you have a group list in place, let us know as soon as possible so we can secure your tickets at the lowest possible rate. If you do not wish for Servant Life to handle your airfare, let us know. We allow groups to book airfare independently as long as we approve the itinerary first.

What else would you like to know?

Email us at: info@servantlife.com!

